



PeaceWomen Across the Globe
 FRIEDENSFRAUEN WELTWEIT
 نساء من أجل السلام عبر العالم
 Femmes de Paix A-tour du Monde
 Женщины мира за мир на земле
 MUJERES DE PAZ EN EL MUNDO
 Mulheres pela Paz ao redor do Mundo
 DONNE DI PACE NEL MONDO
 ピースウーマン—国境を越え平和をつくる女たち
 全球和平妇女



Annual Report 2024

www.1000peacewomen.org

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**Women’s networks: strongholds
against authoritarianism**



Women's networks: strongholds against authoritarianism

More than 1.6 billion citizens in over 70 countries used their vote to determine the political direction of their countries in the historic “super election year” of 2024. After all the votes had been counted, it became clear what harsh realities democracy is facing.

Increasing authoritarianism may take different forms in different countries, but these forms share certain characteristics: contempt for women, feminism, queer people and other marginalised groups and their rights. The economic interests of an elite are paramount and militarisation is being pushed forward in the name of “security”. It is hardly surprising that in 2024 political violence increased by 25 %, affecting women worldwide to an unprecedented extent (source: ACLED).

Our programme partner from Colombia spoke at an event about the “remilitarisation” of rural areas, how women are being pushed back into traditional roles and about the violence they experience. Women in leadership roles are particularly targeted by misogyny. But they refuse to be silenced. “Women working for peace are determined,” said Zully Meneses of Corporación Comunitar. As a counter-strategy, they are forming networks that provide protection and enable them to pursue their peace work in the long term. This strategy for feminist peacebuilding is becoming increasingly important, not only in Colombia.

Networks of female activists contribute to more sustainable peace agreements because they bring the concerns of society at large into the peace negotiations through the women at the negotiating table. This also contributes to ensuring that peace can lead to social change.

The year 2024 made it clear how valuable democracy is and reminded us that it is built on alliances in which all voices are heard. It also made it clear that women’s networks are more important than ever as strongholds against authoritarianism.

Highlights 2024



International Cooperation Forum, Basel
 At our stand at the IC Forum we introduced visitors to our feminist peace work. We were joined by (from left to right): Katharina Stöckli, Fundraising; Margaret Kiener Nellen, Board member; Olin Monteiro, member of our network from Indonesia; Sima Samar, Board member; Ruth-Gaby Vermot, president; Larissa Mina Lee, Network & Advocacy. In a plenary session Olin and Sima spoke about women and peacebuilding.

Human Rights Film Festival, Zurich

At our event at the festival, our colleague Karin Widmer (left), Peacebuilding During Armed Conflict, and the Syrian human rights activist Amal Naser (2nd from right) discussed what possibilities exist for women to take action in conflict-affected countries. The Syrian documentary “Under the sky of Damascus” was shown before the discussion.



Women’s Peace Table, Lebanon

“Women build peace in the midst of war” is the title of a mural by two women artists in southern Lebanon that was created as part of a project within our network. It tells of women’s resistance in war and their demand for safe spaces. This demand, among others, was voiced by participants at six meetings that we supported in Lebanon.



Intergenerational Women’s Peace Table, Nepal
 Eighteen years after the signing of the peace agreement there is still no peace in Nepal – with intergenerational consequences for the people affected. At a Women’s Peace Table, organised as part of our programme in Nepal, two generations shared their experiences and made demands on the government.

Launch of the Initiative to Ban Nuclear Weapons, Bern

We are co-sponsors of the Initiative to Ban Nuclear Weapons (“Atomwaffenverbotsinitiative”) because we consistently stand for global nuclear disarmament and demilitarisation. Our director Deborah Schibler (right) attended the launch in Bern with representatives of allied organisations.



Ukraine country programme, Krakow

Together with our partners, we have redeveloped the country programme for Ukraine, based on the results achieved since 2020. The programme creates an environment in which trust is built between different groups of Ukrainian women, allowing them to create their own peace narratives and develop their networking skills. The programme was launched in Krakow.



Advocacy and political work

Why peacebuilding is also “women’s business”

At various events and across multiple platforms, we spotlighted the wide range of women’s feminist peace work and raised awareness of their demands among a broad audience.

- Sudanese peace activist Rabab Baldo and 14 Sudanese women travelled to Geneva in August. Their demand: women must be included in the negotiations for a ceasefire in Sudan. We took the opportunity to organise media interviews to draw broad public attention to their initiative.
- In an alliance with Frieda – the feminist peace organisation and swisspeace/KOFF, we launched a report setting out civil society’s priorities for the 5th Swiss National Action Plan for the implementation of the “Women, Peace and Security” agenda. In May, we presented the report to representatives of the Federal administration. It calls on the Swiss government to implement concrete measures, both at home and abroad.
- We used our “Understanding Peace Processes” tool as a basis for presentations on women’s diverse roles in peace processes, including at the International Cooperation Forum in Basel, the FOSIT symposium in Lugano, and at several workshops at universities and high schools. At a parliamentary meeting in Bern on “Legal Alternatives to War”, our president Ruth-Gaby Vermot gave a speech in which she called for the meaningful participation of women in peace processes.
- In statements on the Israel-Gaza conflict, we called for a ceasefire, the protection of the civilian population and the continued financing of UNRWA.
- The NZZ am Sonntag and the Tribune de Genève published our opinion pieces in which we explained why “making peace is a woman’s business” (NZZ am Sonntag).

Feminists Connecting for Peace

Solidarity, protection and knowledge-sharing in networks

Networks of activists demonstrably contribute to more sustainable peace agreements. This is one reason why the Feminists Connecting for Peace (FCP) network is the cornerstone of our feminist peace work. In 2024, we promoted networking and joint learning processes within the growing network.

We began 2024 with the first in-person FCP meeting. Peace activists from 11 countries gathered in Bern to share their extensive knowledge, develop joint strategies and goals, and strengthen solidarity within the network. In addition, the network met several times in virtual spaces, including a cyber security webinar. Participants learned how to protect themselves from cyber threats by recognising them and reacting appropriately.

In a statement, we called for the protection of FCP member Olga Karatch after she was accused of “conspiracy” by a Belarusian court and sentenced *in absentia* to 12 years in prison. The Belarusian activist lives in precarious circumstances in exile.

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“Without peace,
nothing works.”
—

The armed conflict in Lebanon required the reorientation of an ongoing project on the connection between small arms and violence against women. The urgent need for safe spaces for exchange was now at the centre of attention. In six meetings, displaced women, community representatives and mediators developed peacebuilding strategies.

In 2024, we supported three peace initiatives from the network with our Feminist Peace Initiatives. These included a meeting organised by the Congolese organisation SOFAD which enabled dialogue between state and civil society actors from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Rwanda and further developed peacebuilding capacities. A Burundian participant demanded: “Those in power should put peace first, because without peace, nothing works.”

Programme work

A feminist understanding of peace processes

As part of the process of focusing our programme work in 2024, we restructured it into three pillars: Peacebuilding During Armed Conflict, Peacebuilding After Armed Conflict and the new pillar Peacebuilding During Peace Negotiations. This is how we implement our goal of supporting women in their diverse efforts to achieve lasting peace and ensure their participation in peace processes in conflict-affected countries and regions.

Peacebuilding During Armed Conflict:

With our Ukraine programme, redeveloped in 2024, we are creating an environment where the rifts between women who have gone into exile, those who have been internally displaced and those who have remained in eastern Ukraine are bridged through confidence-building measures, enabling them to talk openly about peace. The discussions at the launch of the new programme in Krakow showed how women have been able to deepen their understanding of peace in recent years. They have built mutual trust by openly discussing their fears and desires and debating their ideas of peace and security. In 2024 the book “Voices along the way”, a collection of stories of participants at the Women’s Peace Tables held in the first year of the war, was published. The preface states: “The stories show that women know the value of peace and are doing everything in their power to resist war at various levels.”

Peacebuilding During Peace Negotiations:

Studies show that the equal participation of women strengthens the sustainability of peace agreements. One reason for this is that women at the negotiating table are connected with women’s networks at all levels of society and thus incorporate relevant concerns into the agreement. And yet women remain largely excluded from formal peace processes. With this pillar, launched in 2024, we want to ensure that women who build peace are involved in negotiations in various roles and at various levels, so that more comprehensive and lasting peace agreements are concluded. In 2024, we developed a clear narrative for the need to strengthen women’s participation in peace processes and defined the new pillar. We conducted context analyses, including on Colombia and Sudan, established contacts with potential partners and built mutual trust. In this context, we supported Sudanese women peace activists, for example by facilitating contacts with the African Union. Country programmes in Sudan and Colombia will be launched in 2025.

Peacebuilding After Armed Conflict:

Our long-standing partnership with women peace activists in Colombia, Nepal and the Philippines, which continued in our 2024 programmes, offers valuable lessons for the involvement of women in the implementation of peace agreements. We have summarised the lessons learned over the past few years in a graphic illustration that we make available to peace activists and experts. At the “Women Sustaining Peace” event, three representatives of our partner organisations summarised the prerequisites for effective peace work after an armed conflict. The three main factors for this are:

1. Supporting peace efforts sustainably and over the long term to create the necessary conditions for peace activists to develop and strengthen their creative agency,
2. so they can take advantage of political windows of opportunity to implement peace agreements and bring about social change.

Our work with partners in these countries is based on these insights and focuses on these components to ensure effective and sustainable peacebuilding.

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“Strengthening the
conditions for creative
agency.”
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Our sincere thanks

Above all, it is the cooperation with you, our long-standing funding partners and generous private donors, that makes our work for a more peaceful world possible – we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Our commitment is made possible by the support of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the Commune of Riehen and the Schaffhausen Cantonal Finance Administration. We also receive generous donations from the Anne Frank Fonds, the Corymbo Foundation, the Däster Schild Foundation, the Dr. Ernst-Günther Bröder Foundation, the focus women Foundation, the Fondation genevoise de bienfaisance “Valeria Rossi di Montelera” and The Wyss Foundation. We would also like to thank the Mother Bernarda Menzingen Foundation, the World Day of Prayer Switzerland, the Roman Catholic parish of Münsingen, the Sauerteig fund, the Reformed Church of the Canton of Bern and other parishes for their valued contributions.

Income Statement

Income	2024	2023
Contributions from public institutions	55,900	106,000
Donations from foundations, organisations and institutions	799,522	731,592
Donations from churches	35,500	15,300
Private donations and membership fees	304,739	210,175
Various income	1,183	5,204
Total income	1,196,844	1,068,272
Expenditure	2024	2023
Direct project expenditure	262,704	330,587
Peacebuilding	207,887	209,062
Network	48,214	110,116
Advocacy	6,603	11,409
Personnel costs	760,134	588,618
Salary costs (including social insurance benefits)	643,105	498,954
Social insurance contributions	106,596	80,901
Other personnel costs	10,432	8,762
Operating costs	178,290	159,337
Office and infrastructure	78,752	41,637
Third-party services	46,026	63,750
Running costs	7,569	6,099
Fundraising	670	1,190
Communications	32,509	21,006
Representation and networking	2,495	1,335
Board	4,118	18,170
Depreciation and amortisation	6,151	6,150
Total expenditure	1,201,128	1,078,541
Operating result	-4,284	-10,269
Financial income and exceptional revenue	-1,228	4,834
Annual result before change in fund capital	-5,511	-5,435
Change in fund capital	-10,358	-7,842
Annual result	4,847	2,406

Balance

Assets	2024	2023
Liquid assets	990,541	964,769
Cash	983,364	960,151
Receivables from goods and services	169	169
Accrued income	7,008	4,449
Fixed assets	0	6,151
Tangible fixed assets	0	6,151
Total assets	990,541	970,920
Liabilities	2024	2023
Current liabilities	47,949	22,817
Payables from goods and services	34,023	13,055
Accrued liabilities	13,926	9,762
Fund capital	54,642	65,000
Earmarked funds	54,642	65,000
Organisational capital	887,950	883,103
Free capital	445,950	441,103
Tied capital	442,000	442,000
Total liabilities	990,541	970,920

Commentary

The limited audit of the annual financial statements has been carried out by the independent auditors BDO AG. It complies with Swiss law and with our bylaws. The annual financial statement has been prepared in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER 21 accounting recommendations and the Swiss code of obligations. All figures are in Swiss francs.

At the end of 2023, PeaceWomen Across the Globe reported a profit of 4,847 Swiss francs. **76.4 % of total expenditure directly benefits our projects** – a great deal of work is done voluntarily. Since 2013, PeaceWomen Across the Globe has held the ZEWO quality seal and is certified as a reputable organisation that uses its donations purposefully, effectively and in an impact-oriented manner, earning the trust of its donors. Our recertification will be completed in June 2025.

The full audited financial statement is available on our website, under Publications – Annual Report.

Team and Board

The International Office employs nine people with a total of 7 full-time positions: Camille Bernheim (Programmes), Carla Weymann (Programmes), Christina Stucky (Communications), Deborah Schibler (Management), Karin Widmer (Programmes), Katharina Stöckli (Fundraising), Larissa Mina Lee (Network), Liv Halperin (Programmes), Nadine Schindler (Administration and Finance). At the end of 2024, three positions were vacant.

In 2024, the International Board comprised Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold, President (Switzerland), Sima Samar (Afghanistan), Sandy Fong (Fiji), Kin Chi Lau (Hong Kong), Alejandra Miller Restrepo (Colombia), Cécile Mukarubuga (Rwanda) and the Swiss members Sidonia Gabriel, Louisa Seferis, Laila Sheikh Rüttimann, Verena Flück, Margret Kiener Nellen, Christine Menz and Susanne Schneeberger.

In 2024, we thanked and bid farewell to our long-standing board members Margo Okazawa-Rey (USA) and Anna Hess (Switzerland). In December, a virtual International Board meeting took place; the Swiss board also met for five additional meetings. The Board’s voluntary work totalled around 3,000 hours.

In addition, we work closely with peace activists in the worldwide Feminists Connecting for Peace network and with our programme partners. Together with their respective networks, they provided around 11,000 hours of volunteer work.

Many thanks to everyone for their great commitment!

“Peace means work”

The experiences, concerns and demands of women peace activists were the focus of the many exchanges and events that took place in 2024. Whether in the virtual space of a webinar or in a physical space in Colombia or Sudan, the women repeatedly expressed why networks, safe spaces for sharing experiences and developing strategies, and solidarity are so essential for feminist peace work. Here is a small selection of the collected quotes from 2024:

“Thanks to you, the word peace is not something I am afraid of anymore, but it means work.” – Participant at the launch of the new Ukraine programme, Krakow

“Women bring additional value to the peace process, not only because they are victims of the war, but because they are active in bringing an end to it. We must not ignore this.” – Rabab Baldo, Sudanese peace activist in a media interview

“It is not easy, in our countries not everyone wants peace. But I am very impressed with how many women from the whole world want the same thing. I feel the energy. We all want peace.” – Belarusian activist Olga Karatch at the network meeting in Bern

“When I was little, I wanted to kill those who killed my father. But today I no longer want revenge. Even though our experiences here are different, the pain we share is similar.” – Participant at an intergenerational Women’s Peace Table in Nepal

“We have to build trust. For a meaningful participation, including of women and youth, trust needs to be built.” – Olin Monteiro, member of our Feminists Connecting for Peace network from Indonesia at the IC Forum “What is peace?” in Basel

What our cooperation achieves

Our long-standing partnerships in Colombia, Nepal and the Philippines support women in implementing peace agreements and in their efforts to achieve structural change. Representatives of the organisations share their most important insights about working with us in videos:

Zully Meneses, director of Corporación Comunitar in Colombia, talks about the importance of Women’s Peace Tables, which offer women from different regions safe spaces where they can freely discuss their experiences of armed conflict.

Trishna Thapa, deputy executive director of Nagarik Aawaz in Nepal, explains how our collaboration based on feminist principles promotes a holistic understanding of justice in Nepalese society and politics.

Karen Tañada, executive director of the GZO Peace Institute in the Philippines, explains how our programme strengthens women’s participation in transitional justice in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.



The videos can be viewed using the QR code.
Go to PeaceWomen Across the Globe’s YouTube channel



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